



# Nebraska Student Vote

Candidate Profiles

## BOB KERREY – 2012

**Age:**

**Hometown:**

**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**Years in Current Office:**

**Congressional Committees on which you serve:**

**Education:**

**Prior Public Offices Held:**

**Political Heroes:**

**1. U.S. Presidents have said for several years that we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. What steps would you take to make us less dependent on foreign oil and to achieve more energy efficiency in the U.S.?**

With regard to reducing our dependence on foreign oil, I strongly believe Nebraska can lead the way to greater independence by increasing its ethanol production. I have fought for increased ethanol production since I was governor. In 1997, I joined Sens. Hagel, Grassley and Harkin in forming a "bipartisan barrier" against cutting tax incentives for corn-based ethanol. Today, 24 plants in Nebraska have a production capacity of 2 billion gallons of ethanol per year; that equates to 20 billion gallons of E-10 fuel. Nearly 70 percent of Nebraska's fuel consumption in 2007 was E-10. The increase in cleaner-burning ethanol also reduces the impact of greenhouse gases by as much as 65 percent.

If elected to the Senate, I will also continue to support energy efficiency and weatherization. While in the Senate, I was proud to help fund programs that saved tax dollars by assessing local hospitals and schools to increase their efficiency and reduce their energy consumption.

**2. After September 11, 2001 our nation has made public safety from terrorism a high priority. Have we achieved a sustainable level of public safety or do you think more steps are needed to protect public safety into the future?**

I share your concern for the threat of terrorism to our nation. I was honored to serve as a member of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States after the September 11 attacks. While the road wasn't always smooth to making the necessary changes to equip our intelligence and military to fight the threat, I am encouraged in the progress our nation has made. We have also substantially improved the way our nation tracks and limits the flow of money by tightening our banking controls. Certainly, removing Osama bin Laden as a threat has contributed greatly to our safety. But we must continue to pressure terror cells around the world. The intelligence that's collected since the bin Laden killing is going to enable us to do further damage to al-Qaeda.



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### **3. Since our federal debt and annual deficits are a major concern, what are the top three priorities for you on these issues?**

As Governor, Senator and co-chairman of the Concord Coalition, I have participated in successful efforts to balance budgets. I believe in telling Nebraskans the truth: If Republicans say no to tax increases for the wealthy and Democrats say no to entitlement reform, failure, frustration and more debt will be the result. I support the proposal known as the "Buffett Rule" to bring about tax fairness and to reduce the payroll tax, which often is the largest tax paid by Nebraskans.

I also believe the tax structure must be reformed. For too long, large corporations have viewed the tax code as their personal domain, writing in exemptions and loopholes that allow them to escape paying their fair share to help defend our nation, education our children, care for our elderly, and pay off the debt. Without reform, small business and the middle class are left picking up the tab.

### **4. Many young people have only a general understanding of the dynamics of politics and elective government. As the greatest democracy in the world, America needs each new generation to step up. What two policies or programs might you pursue to help young people appreciate their freedoms and accept their civic responsibilities?**

Recently, I was honored to address graduating college students and offer this advice:

First, if you do not have a hero, acquire one. Choose a hero whose behavior you admire and hold yourselves to their standards of behavior.

Second, write good rules for yourself, remember those rules and live by them.

Third, be a hero to someone else. No contribution is greater than being a hero to someone you love: your wife, your husband, and your children, even your parents.

Fourth, practice writing and speaking good sentences. It is the basic building block of language.

Fifth, balance the weight of carrying your diploma in one hand by carrying the weight of thank you cards in the other. You have a lot of people to thank. Make certain you do it. And make certain you do it all the days of your lives.